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COUNTRY

Polend

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SUBJECT

School System

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- 1. The Government has concentrated on the establishment of professional schools to train cadres of qualified sorkers and technicians for industry. As a result, general educational facilities have been neglected. Of Poland's 21 thousand elementary schools, only 900 accommodate and teach eight grades, approximately 5,000 are for two grades, and 5,108 are for one grade. More than 3,000 communities are without schools of any type, and there is an over-all shortage of approximately 15 thousand teachers. Because of these inadequacies, more than 500 thousand Police children between the ages of seven and fourteen are deprived of schooling.
- 2. Poland's school system is being converted to a state monopoly in which private institutions will cease to exist. Concurrently with this structural change there is a change in the substance and method of teaching. Instructors stress the socalled slass war and the socialistic reconstruction of national economy. They bear a distorted history of Poland designed to foster friendliness toward the USSR and hatred toward reactionaries at home and abroad. Army officers are widely used as lecturers to propound communistic doctrines not only in elementary and high schools but in factories and large shops.
- 5. The Ministry of Education recently made teaching of the Russian language compaid so: in elementary and high sphools. Students were assured that the action was in accordance with their parents' wishes.
- During the 1947-1948 mehool year a School of Social Service was activated at Katowice. Even the most practical subjects offered at the school are taught from a Marriet point of view and are mixed with Communist propagands. The manager of the school is Habas (fmu), an electrotechnician and a pre-war Communist. Of the school's 20 lecturers, 18 are Communists and the remaining two are Socialists. The atudent body shown a divided organizational loyalty as follows:

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The students' educational backgrounds are also varied; 309 had elementary school training, 130 completed high school, 256 attended high school for two or three years, and only five are university graduates.

- 5. At a mining school for 10-15 year old boys in Ludwikow. Kladzko County, students are forced to perform eight hours of manual labor per day in addition to their classroom work which consists of political lectures. Many of the children suffer from overwork and poor food.
- 8. The PPE activist, Leon Repinski, recently conducted an unsuccessful enlistment drive for the ZMM in Kladsko. He finally forced the local high school superintendent to let him assume the teaching of history and current events to the older high school students. Before convening his classes, Kepinski distributed ZMM enlistment forms to the students. When no signed forms were returned, Kepinski told the students "we will see at examination time; it is I who will then decide who passes and goes to college."
- 7. Minister of Education Skrzeszewski constantly streames his ministry's desire to cooperate with the ZNP (Zwiasek Nauczycieli Polskich Association of Polish Teachers).
 He stated that ZNP has achieved much in the educational field and in the fight for
 democracy in the schools. He warned ZNP, however, against a repetition of the attack
 it made on the Government's educational policies at a ZNP congress in Bytom. This
 warning was echoed by Berek, superintendent of schools in Slask-Dabrowa Province, who
 stated on 15 Nov 47: "teachers and their leaders who breathe the Bytom atmosphere and
 wish to influence other teachers will be ousted from their schools and their association."
- 8. Teachers have received no salary increases but the Government has raised their overtime pay coefficient from 135 to 400 slotys per hour for teachers in professional schools, and to 1,000 slotys per hour for academic teachers.
- 9. An additional compensation for teachers is their access to such special schools and courses as the following:
 - (a) WKN (Wysssy Kursa Nauczycielskie Higher Courses for Teachers)
 - (b) Pedagogical Institutes (Instytuty Pedagogiczne)
 - (c) Institute for Handicrafts
 - (d) CIMF (Centralny Instytut Aychowania Fizycznego Central Institute of Physical Training)
- 10. Teachers also have access to universities and mass courses of four weeks duration.

 During the 1946-1947 school year a total of 19,381 teachers attended the 399 mass courses which were organized. The Einistry of Education expects to increase the number of these courses during the 1947-1948 school year, and to institute additional courses for training ideological educators (politruks). Only graduates of ideological courses will be considered for teaching positions.
- 11. On 27 Nov 47 a three-day conference of university and college presidents was held in Marsaw. Among the government officials attending were Berman, Skrzeszewski.

 Kacsorowski, Krasowska, and Jablonski. The conference established a new body designated as the Chief Council for Learning and higher Education (Rada Glowna Nauki i Szkol Wyssaych). In announcing formation of this new organ, Sokorski, President of the Council of Higher Schooling, stated that it would be the "academic senate" with complete control of educational planning and personnel.

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